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TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700

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Re: Application No. 10/031,942 - request for reconsideration

Dear John Hotaling,

This is in response to the communication of 03/23/2004 concerning application 10/031,942. I would like to request that you reconsider this application, with the amended claims that I attach, and in the light of my comments below.

In the following text I first explain the amendments to the claims in section (a), then explain why the claims are novel and non-obvious in section (b), and then respond to each specific objection in the action in section (c).

#### **(a) The Amended Claims**

- (1) I cancelled all claims except claim 4 of the original application, and added new claim 1. The new claims are attached. The numbering is with respect to the claims as they were listed in the international application.
- (2) The new Claim 1 is a re-write of the original Claim 1, with a more explicit description of the behaviour of the board, which reduces the scope of the claim and increases its novelty. I present this as a new claim rather than amended claim with marking because there are so many changes that the result seems to me unreadable.
- (3) The substantive modification is the more explicit description of the game, in the section starting "when a player presses a point..". The general description of which points are switched off is based on the first paragraph of page 4 of the description. The switching of turns is implicit in the description of the game in the second paragraph on page 2 (where it says "Each player in their turn.."), and is mentioned explicitly on page 7, second paragraph.
- (4) The other changes are minor as far as contents are concerned. They are:
  - a) Removing the references to the game manager and its contents and the character display, because these do not add to the novelty of the invention and are not required for describing it.
  - b) Adding a reference to "various games". This is based on the last sentence of the first paragraph on page 2, and the list of kinds of game in the seventh paragraph of page 3.
  - c) informalities changes: adding line spaces, indentation; removing italics and reference digits.